

Message Text

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63

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

SCS-03 AID-20 CCO-00 FBO-01 NIC-01 M-03 OC-06 OPR-02

SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SY-10 RSR-01 /127 W

----- 014088

R 231520 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4537

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 6068

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS IN

SUBJ: VIOLENCE IN SRINAGAR

1. DELHI APPERS REPORTED THAT TWO PERSONS WERE KILLED WHEN POLICE OPENED FIRE ON VIOLENT DEMONSTRATORS IN SRINAGAR MAY 22. SEVERAL POLICEMEN WERE INJURED. NINETEEN ARRESTS WERE MADE. ACCORDING TO THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, SEVERAL TOURISTS INCLUDING SOME FOREIGNERS WERE BEATEN UP.

2. THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE PROTESTING AGAINST A BRITISH PUBLICATION, " BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE- CHILDREN' S ENCYCLOPEDIA", WHICH HAD BEEN BANNED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT. BOOK ALLEGEDLY CONTAINS PICTURE OF PROPHET MOHAMMED, AN OFFENSE TO ISLAM. DEOMONSTRATIONS BEGAN SOME FIVE DAYS AGO WHEN A COPY OF THE BOOK WAS DISCOVERED IN A LIBRARY (WHERE IT HAD LAIN UNNOTICED FOR TWENTY YEARS). BOOK HAS NOW BEEN BANNED THROUGHOUT INDIA.

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3. AN OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN SAID THAT TROUBLE STARTED WHEN " ANTI-SOCIAL ELEMENTS" TOOK ADVANTAGE OF PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS AND THAT POLITICAL PARTIES HAD NOT PARTICIPATED. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO PTI, YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS SPONSORING THE DEMONSTRATIONS CLAIMED THE BACKING OF NON- CONGRESS OPPOSITION PARTIES.

4. CHIEF MINISTER QASIM AND SHEIKH ABDULLAH HAVE APPEALED FOR CALM. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN CLOSED FOR THREE DAYS AND AN ORDINANCE BANNING DEMONSTRATIONS HAS BEEN IMPOSED.

5. EMBASSY ATTEMPTS TO CONFIRM NEWS STORIES, ESPECIALLY WHETHER AMERICANS INVOLVED INCIDENT REPORTED IN HINDUSTAN TIMES, MET WITH NO SUCCESS AT HOME MINISTRY. ESPECIALLY SINCE MAY- JUNE IS HEIGHT OF KASHMIR TOURIST SEASON. EMBASSY WILL PERSEVERE AND REPORT.
MOYNIHAN

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NEWDE06068
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730552/aaaajpyb.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <08-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980227
Subject: VIOLENCE IN SRINAGAR
TAGS: PINS, IN
To: BOMBAY
CALCUTTA
Dacca
ISLAMABAD
KATHMANDU
MADRAS
NEA

SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005